

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-38 and add new claims 39-76, as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-38 (canceled)

39. (new) A method for discharging an airstream from a cooking area, comprising the steps of:

passing the airstream through a sorbent for sorption of water or water vapor present in said airstream and regeneration of said sorbent.

40. (new) The method according to claim 39, including discharging said airstream from a room and returning at least a portion of said airstream back to said room downstream from said sorbent.

41. (new) The method according to claim 39, including separating fat and oil present in said airstream upstream from said sorbent by providing and utilizing a fat filter.

42. (new) The method according to claim 41, including separating odoriferous substances present in said airstream by providing and utilizing by at least one of an odor filter downstream from said fat filter or when using a sorbent that can also separate odors by utilizing said sorbent.

43. (new) The method according to claim 40, including dividing said airstream into a first air substream and a second air substream upstream from said sorbent and passing said first air substream through said sorbent, bypassing said second air substream around said sorbent and

combining said first air substream and said second air substream downstream from said sorbent and sending said combined first air substream and said second air substream back into said room.

44. (new) The method according to claim 43, including adjusting the residual moisture content of said combined airstream by adjusting the volume flow ratio between said first air substream and said second air substream, preferably to a ratio such that said combined airstream has a moisture level corresponding to the moisture level in the absence of a cooking process.

45. (new) The method according to claim 39, including sorption of said water or said water vapor by at least one of CaCl_2 , LiCl , silica gel or zeolite.

46. (new) The method according to claim 39, including regenerating of said sorbent by desorption of said sorbent by heating said sorbent to a temperature suitable for desorption of said water from said sorbent.

47. (new) The method according to claim 46, including regenerating of said sorbent when it is not necessary to discharge an airstream above the cooking area.

48. (new) The method according to claim 46, including producing a regeneration airstream through said sorbent during said regeneration process and forming said regeneration airstream smaller than said airstream in the cooking process.

49. (new) The method according to claim 46, including heating said sorbent directly by providing at least one of a heating device embedded in said sorbent in the form of heating coils, indirectly by providing microwave radiation adjusted for said water or by heating indirectly by heating said regeneration airstream upstream from said sorbent.

50. (new) The method according to claim 48, including returning said regeneration airstream to said room in order to humidify said room at least in the winter.

51. (new) The method according to claim 48, including condensation of the moisture content in said regeneration airstream by providing and utilizing a condensation unit.

52. (new) The method according to claim 51, including cooling said condensation unit by at least one of room air, outside air, water, water from the building water system, by providing and utilizing a heat pump, by providing and utilizing a heat pump refrigeration system or a Peltier element.

53. (new) The method according to claim 48, including dividing said regeneration airstream upstream from said sorbent into a first regeneration air substream and a second regeneration air substream, passing said first regeneration air substream through said sorbent, bypassing said second regeneration air substream around said sorbent, combining said first regeneration air substream and said second regeneration air substream downstream from said

sorbent and returning said combined regeneration airstream back to said room.

54. (new) The method according to claim 51, including dividing said regeneration airstream into a first regeneration air substream and a second regeneration air substream upstream from said sorbent, passing said first regeneration air substream through said sorbent, passing said second regeneration air substream around said sorbent, returning said first regeneration air substream to the inlet side of said sorbent, sending said second regeneration air substream as a cooling airstream through said condensation unit and returning said second regeneration air substream to said room downstream from said condensation unit.

55. (new) The method according to claim 51, including discharging said condensed water into a drain or a storage container.

56. (new) A vapor-discharging device for discharging an air stream from a cooking area, comprising:
 a housing
 a fan for conveying the airstream through the vapor-discharging device; and
 a sorbent arranged in said airstream for sorption of water or water vapor in said airstream.

57. (new) The device according to claim 56,

including at least one of an expanded metal fat filter, a nonwoven filter or an eddy current filter provided for separation of fat, oil and water of condensation from said airstream upstream from said sorbent.

58. (new) The device according to claim 56, including an activated carbon odor filter provided downstream from said fat filter for separation of odors from said airstream.

59. (new) The device according to claim 56, including a regeneration device for desorption of said water out of said sorbent.

60. (new) The device according to claim 59, including said regeneration unit has a heating device for one of direct heating of said sorbent utilizing at least one of a heating device arranged in said sorbent or a microwave heating device arranged around said sorbent or indirect heating of said sorbent by heating a regeneration airstream passed through said sorbent upstream from said sorbent.

61. (new) The device according to claim 59, including said fan creates a regeneration airstream through said sorbent and said regeneration airstream being smaller than heat exchanger airstream.

62. (new) The device according to claim 59, including said regeneration device has at least one of a heat exchanger condensation unit or a capacitor according to the crosscurrent or countercurrent technology arranged downstream from heat exchanger sorbent.

63. (new) The device according to claim 62, including said condensation unit includes an outside wall of said housing, said outside wall being cooled by free convection of the room air on the outside of said outside wall and water being condensed on the inside of said outside wall.

64. (new) The device according to claim 62, including said condensation unit has a cooling device, said cooling device has a second fan for cooling said condensation unit by utilizing ambient air.

65. (new) The device according to claim 64, including said cooling device has at least one of a refrigeration cycle or a Peltier element and an air guidance device provided between the hot side of said refrigeration cycle or said Peltier element and said sorbent in order to use one of air heated by said hot side of said refrigeration cycle or said Peltier element for heating said sorbent in the regeneration process.

66. (new) The device according to a claim 63, including a condensate-collecting device in the form of one of a trough or a pan which is connected to one of a drain or collecting container provided on said condensation unit.

67. (new) The device according to claim 56, including said sorbent provided in at least one of the form of a bulk material in an air-permeable bulk material container, designed as a porous molded article, the form of a plurality of plate-like porous molded articles or a plurality of plate-like flat bulk material containers which

are arranged one after the other in the direction of flow or in parallel.

68. (new) The device according to claim 56, including said sorbent is adhered to at least one of a porous carrier material such as an open-pore sponge, a tile material, a corrugated textile or a honeycomb textile structure to provide a large surface area.

69. (new) The device according to claim 56, including multiple carrier materials provided with sorbent arranged one after the other in the direction of flow or in parallel with said airstream.

70. (new) The device according to claim 56, including said sorbent is formed by at least one of CaCl_2 , LiCl , silica gel, zeolite or SWS (selective water sorbent).

71. (new) The device according claim 56, including a bypass for bypassing at least one of an air substream or a partial regeneration airstream around said sorbent in a bypass line and an air-dividing device to adjust the volume flow ratio between said airstream in said bypass line and said airstream in the main line.

72. (new) The device according to claim 71, including said air-dividing device formed by a throttle valve arranged in said main line downstream from said sorbent.

73. (new) The device according to claim 71, including said heat exchanger is arranged in said bypass line, and a valve device is provided downstream from said

sorbent in said main line, establishing a connection to said bypass line downstream from said heat exchanger in a first position and having a second position sending said regeneration airstream to said heat exchanger.

74. (new) The device according to claim 73, including a connecting line provided from said heat exchanger to said main line upstream from said heating device for further conveyance of said regeneration airstream.

75. (new) The device according to claim 56, including said vapor-discharging device is used as one of a room air humidifier or a room air dryer.

76. (new) The device according to claim 56, including said vapor-discharging device including an extractable shield, the extracted position used as a signal for the exhaust operation and the retracted position used as a signal for the regeneration operation.